



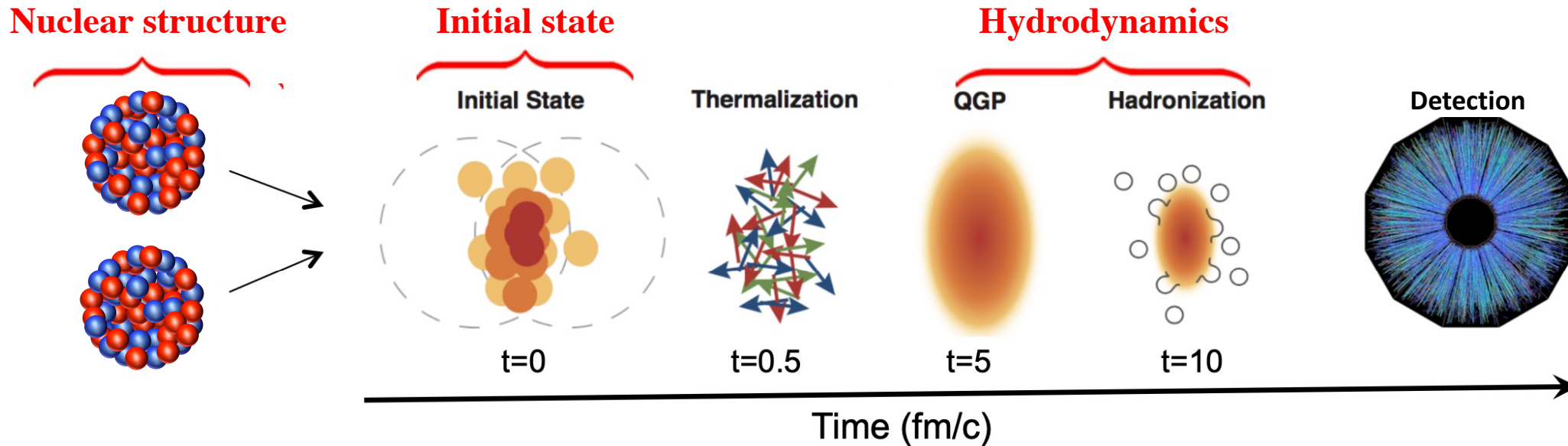
Study of the nuclear deformation in relativistic isobar collisions at RHIC

Chunjian Zhang

For the STAR Collaboration



Heavy-ion collisions and nuclear structure

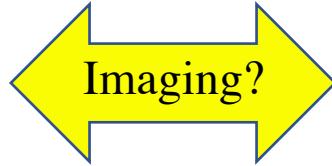
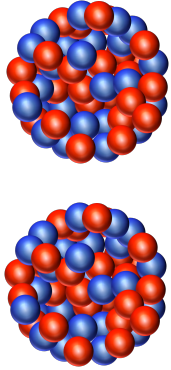


Space-time evolution of heavy-ion collisions can be considered as a **hydrodynamic response** to the **nucleon density distribution** in the **initial overlap region** in the transverse plane, driven by **pressure gradient**.

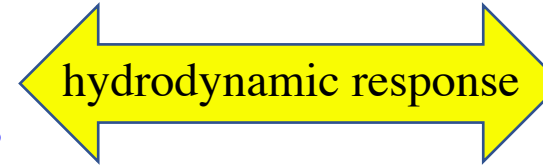
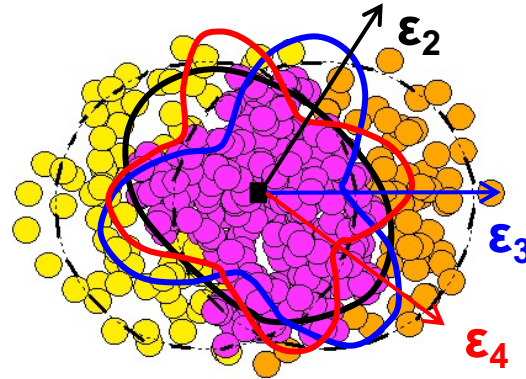
The **shape and the size of the overlap** are controlled by the **shape and radial profile of the colliding nuclei**.

Hydrodynamic response to initial state

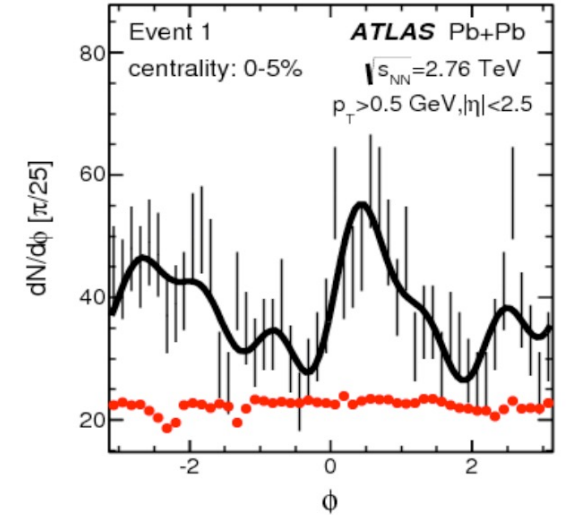
Nuclear Structure



Initial State



Produced Particle Flow



$$\rho(r, \theta, \phi) = \frac{\rho_0}{1 + e^{(r - R_0(1 + \sum_n \beta_n Y_n^0(\theta, \phi))) / a_0}}$$

Initial Size

Initial Shape

$$R_\perp^2 \propto \langle r_\perp^2 \rangle \quad \mathcal{E}_n \propto \langle r_\perp^n e^{in\phi} \rangle$$

R_0 a_0 β_n ?

$\beta_2 \rightarrow$ Quadrupole deformation

$\beta_3 \rightarrow$ Octupole deformation

$a_0 \rightarrow$ Surface diffuseness

$R_0 \rightarrow$ Nuclear size

Approximate linear response
in each event:

$$\frac{\delta[p_T]}{[p_T]} \propto -\frac{\delta R_\perp}{R_\perp} \quad V_n \propto \mathcal{E}_n$$

Radial Flow

Anisotropic Flow

$$\frac{d^2 N}{d\phi dp_T} = N(p_T) \left(\sum_n V_n e^{-in\phi} \right)$$

D. Teaney et al., arXiv:1206.1905

Connecting shape ε_n and size R to β_n

- ε_n is related to the shape of the Y_n^n projected to the transverse plane

$$\varepsilon_n = -\frac{\langle r_{\perp}^n e^{in\phi} \rangle}{\langle r_{\perp}^n \rangle} \propto \langle Y_n^n \rangle = \underbrace{\epsilon_{n;0}}_{\text{Undeformed}} + \underbrace{p_n(\Omega_1, \Omega_2)}_{\text{Phase factor}} \beta_n + \mathcal{O}(\beta_n^2)$$

J. Jia, arXiv:2109.00604

Y_n^n : spherical harmonics

$$\text{Flow variance } \langle v_n^2 \rangle \propto \langle \varepsilon_n^2 \rangle = \langle \varepsilon_0^2 \rangle + \langle p_2(\Omega_1, \Omega_2) p_2^*(\Omega_1, \Omega_2) \rangle \beta_n^2$$

- R_{\perp} is related to Y_2^0 projected to the transverse plane

$$R_{\perp}^2 = \langle x^2 \rangle + \langle y^2 \rangle \propto \left\langle 1 - 2\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{5}} Y_2^0 \right\rangle \quad d_{\perp} \equiv 1/R_{\perp}$$

$$\frac{\delta d_{\perp}}{d_{\perp}} = \delta_d + p_0(\Omega_1, \Omega_2) \beta_2 + \mathcal{O}(\beta_2^2) \quad \text{fluctuation of } \delta_d \text{ (}\epsilon_0\text{) is uncorrelated with } p_0 \text{ (}\mathbf{p}_2\text{)}$$

$$\text{Variance } \langle (\delta[\mathbf{p}_T]/[\mathbf{p}_T])^2 \rangle \propto \langle (\delta d_{\perp}/d_{\perp})^2 \rangle = \langle \delta_d^2 \rangle + \langle p_0(\Omega_1, \Omega_2)^2 \rangle \beta_2^2$$

The STAR detector and unique isobar run

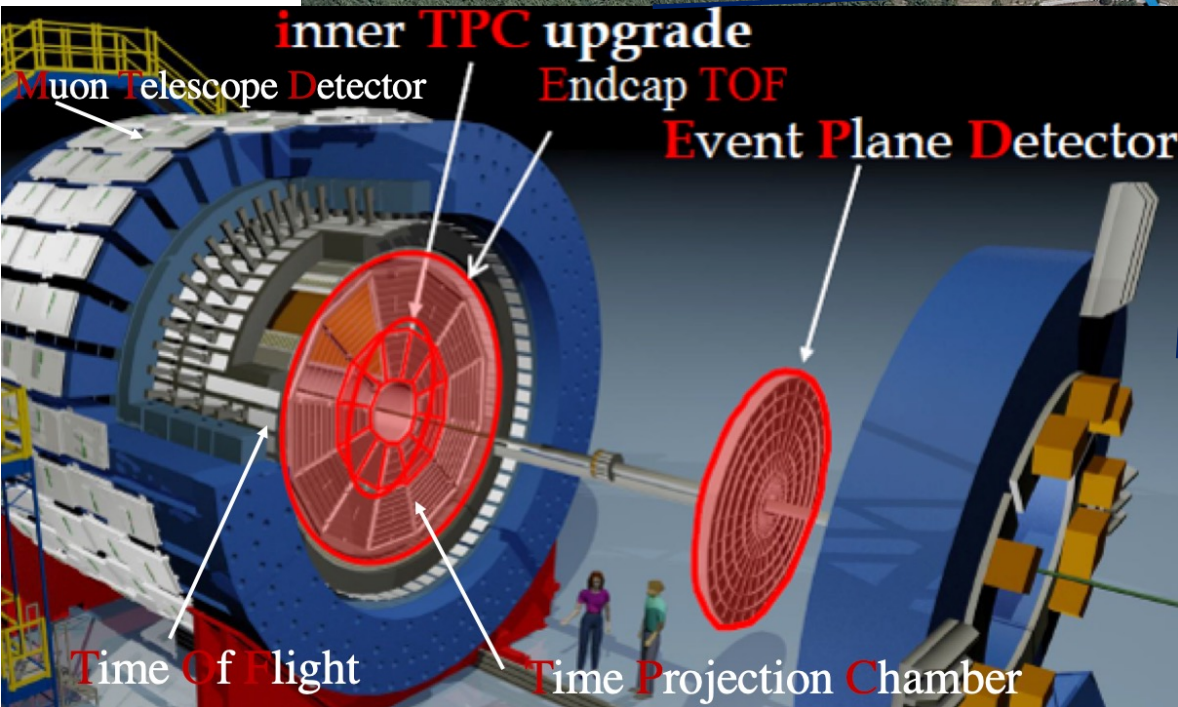
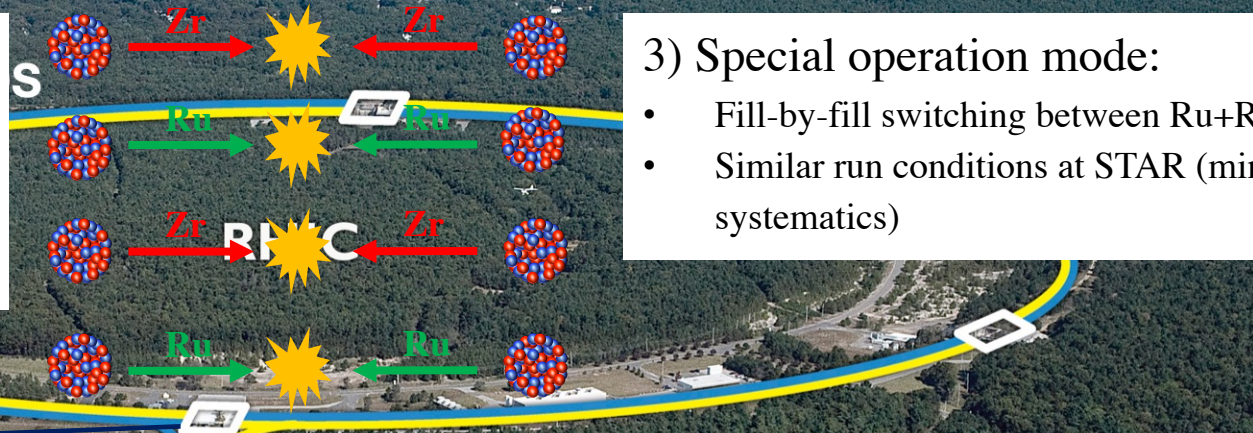
1) $^{96}_{44}\text{Ru} + ^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$, $^{96}_{40}\text{Zr} + ^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$ at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$

2) Ideal system to study nuclear structure:

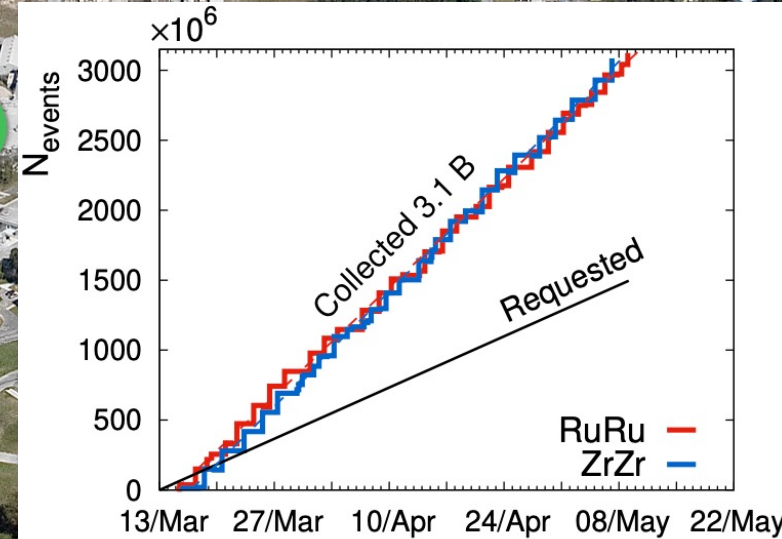
$$\frac{v_{n,\text{Ru+Ru}}}{v_{n,\text{Zr+Zr}}} \stackrel{?}{=} 1$$

3) Special operation mode:

- Fill-by-fill switching between Ru+Ru and Zr+Zr
- Similar run conditions at STAR (minimize the systematics)



Large, uniform acceptance at mid-rapidity



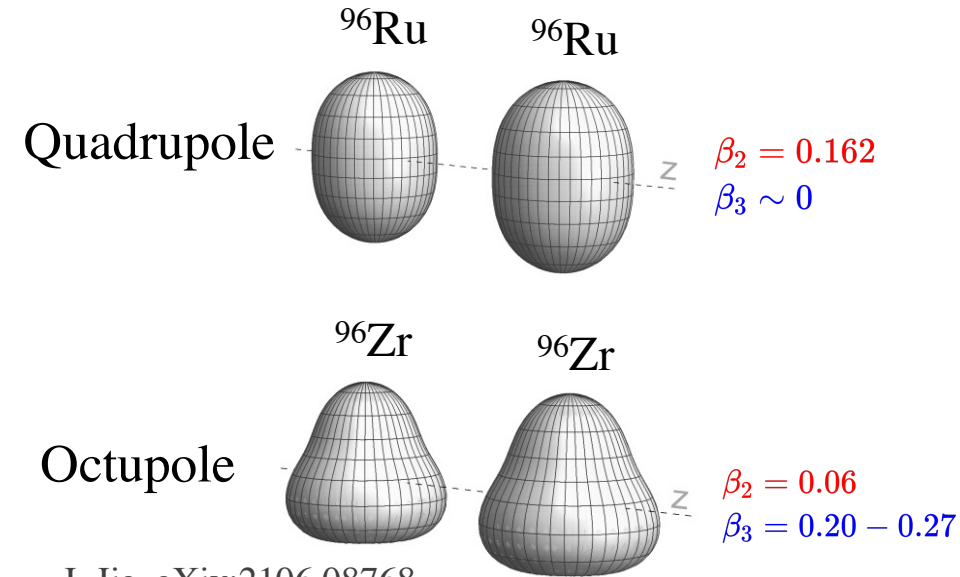
Isobar run originally dedicated to CME search

CME search at RHIC

Session 3 (Nov. 6)

(Fuqiang Wang)

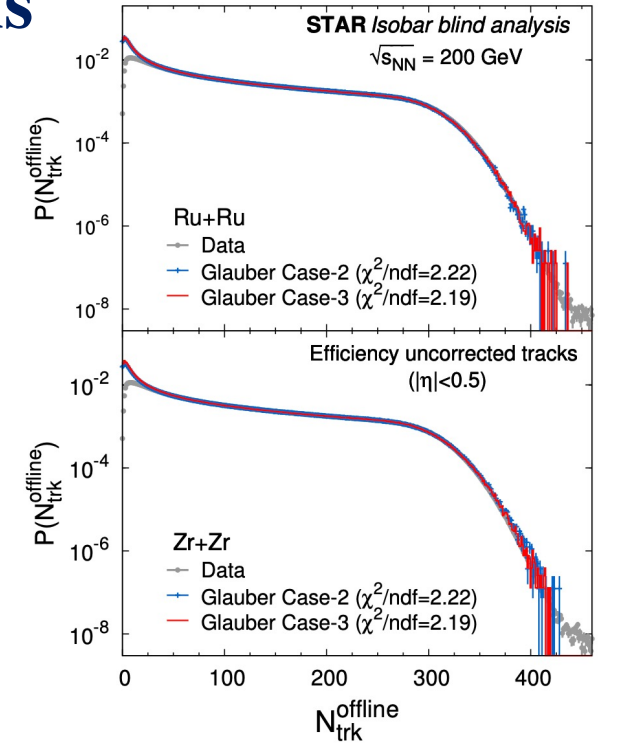
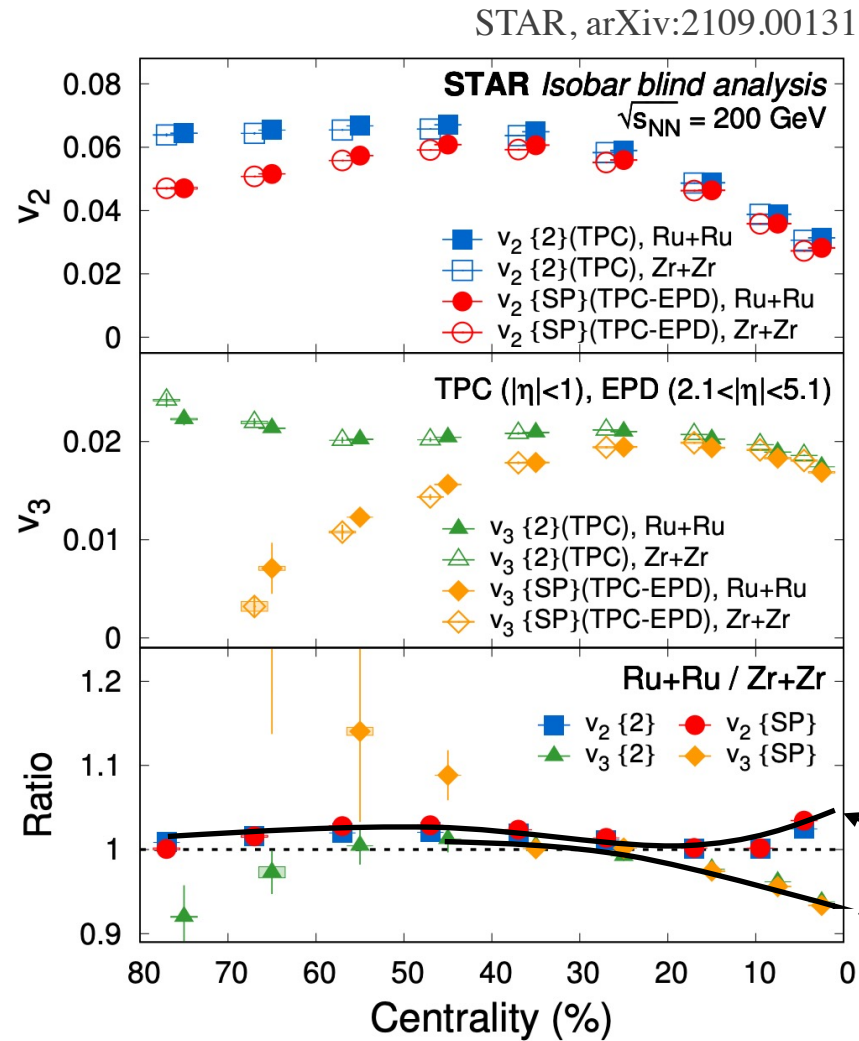
Nuclear deformation in isobar collisions



Nuclear structure data on Ru/Zr deformation:

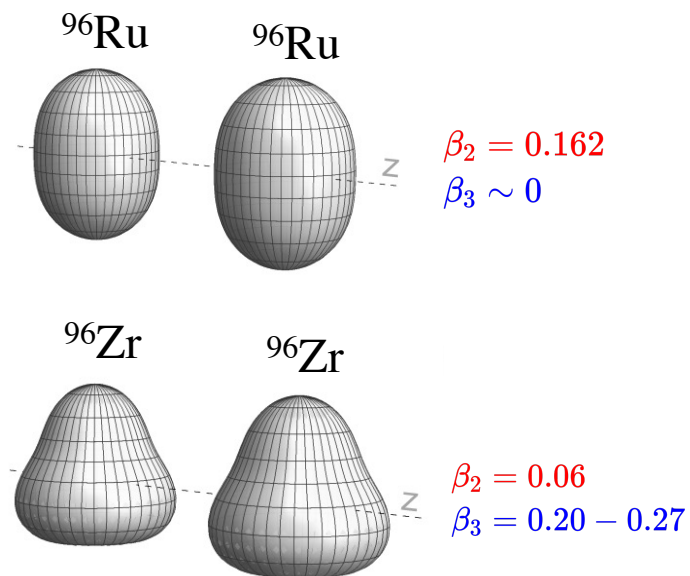
	β_2	$E_{2_1^+}$ (MeV)	β_3	$E_{3_1^-}$ (MeV)
^{96}Ru	0.154	0.83	-	3.08
^{96}Zr	0.062	1.75	0.202, 0.235, 0.27	1.90

$$\beta_2 = \frac{4\pi}{3ZR_0^2} \sqrt{\frac{B(E2) \uparrow}{e^2}} \quad \beta_3 = \frac{4\pi}{3ZR_0^3} \sqrt{\frac{B(E3) \uparrow}{e^2}}$$



significant departure from One

Goal: explore effect of β_n in finer bins of multiplicity



J. Jia, aXiv:2106.08768

Heavy-ion expectation:

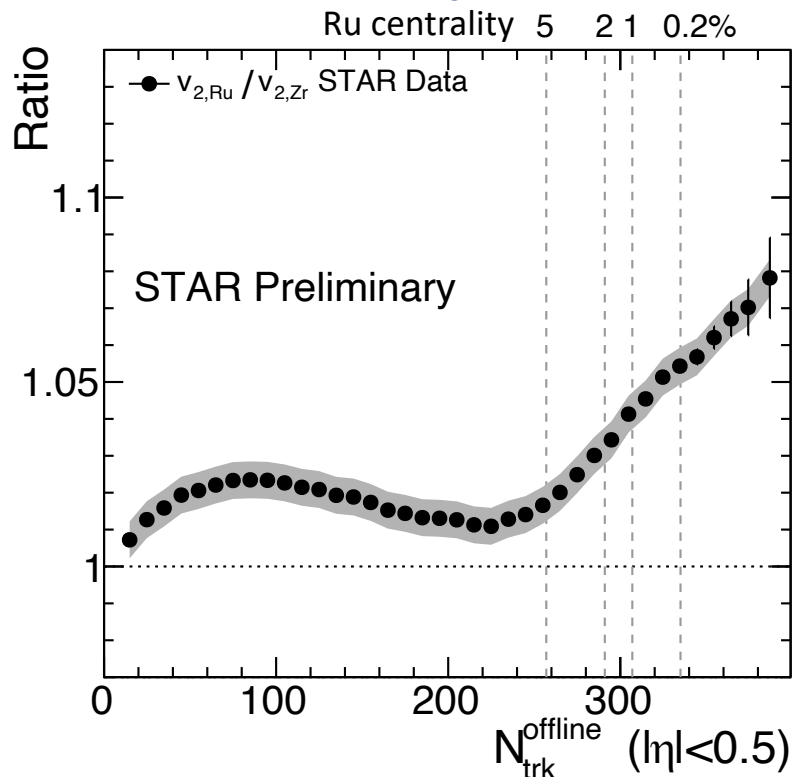
$$v_2^2 = a_2 + b_2\beta_2^2 + b_{2,3}\beta_3^2, \quad v_3^2 = a_3 + b_3\beta_3^2$$

$$\frac{v_{2,\text{Ru}}^2}{v_{2,\text{Zr}}^2} \approx 1 + \frac{b_2}{a_2}(\beta_{2,\text{Ru}}^2 - \beta_{2,\text{Zr}}^2) - \frac{b_{2,3}}{a_2}\beta_{3,\text{Zr}}^2$$

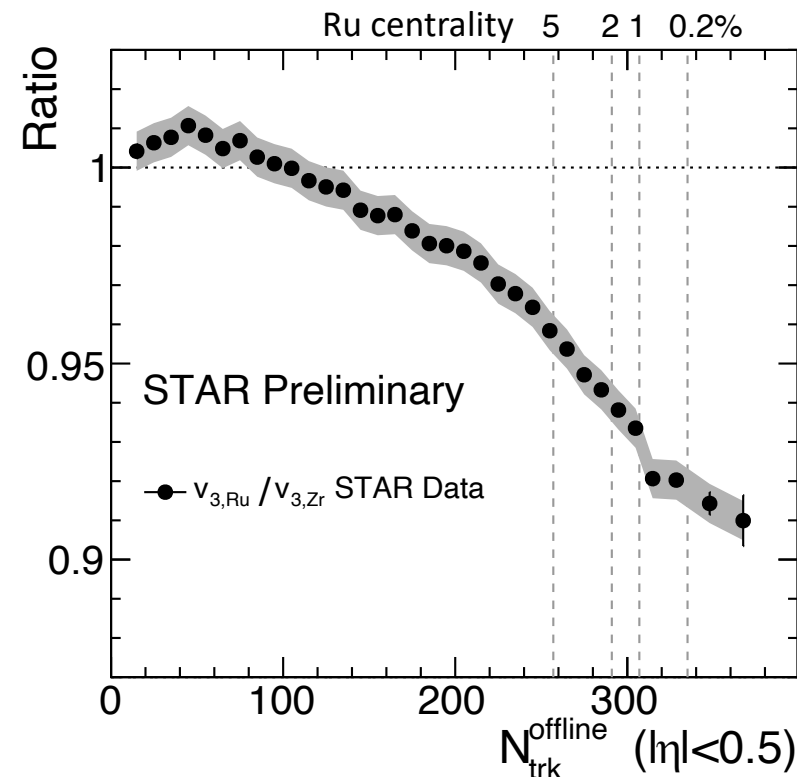
$$\frac{v_{3,\text{Ru}}^2}{v_{3,\text{Zr}}^2} \approx 1 - \frac{b_3}{a_3}\beta_{3,\text{Zr}}^2 < 1$$

Cancelation expected in non-central collisions

v_2 and v_3 ratio



Ratio at same $N_{\text{ch}} \neq$
Ratio at same centrality

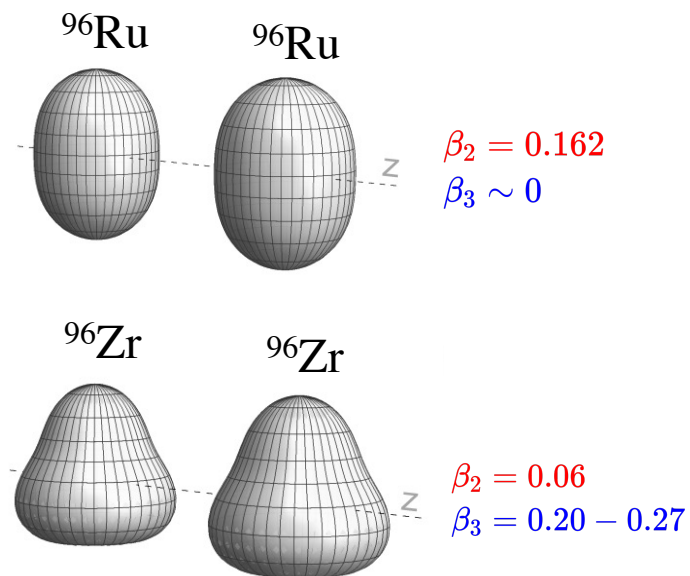


Continuous decrease in v_3 ratio

Nonmonotonic trend in v_2 ratio: enhancement in peripheral and sharp increase in central

✓ The large differences of v_2 and v_3 suggest $\beta_{2,\text{Ru}} \gg \beta_{2,\text{Zr}}$ and $\beta_{3,\text{Ru}} \ll \beta_{3,\text{Zr}}$.

C. Zhang et al., arXiv:2109.01631; G. Giacalone et al., 2105.01638



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Species	β_2	β_3	a_0	R
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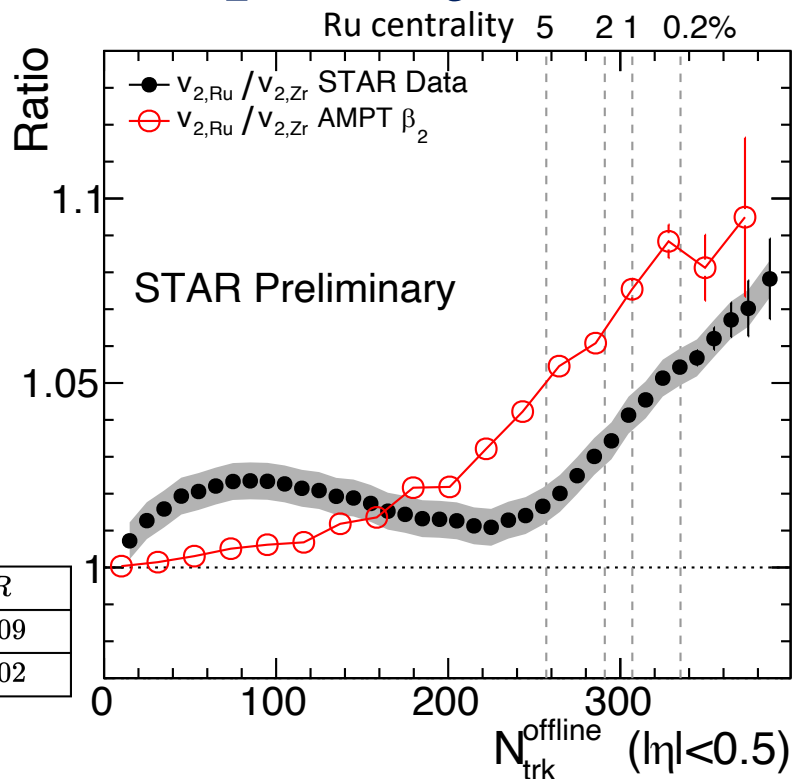
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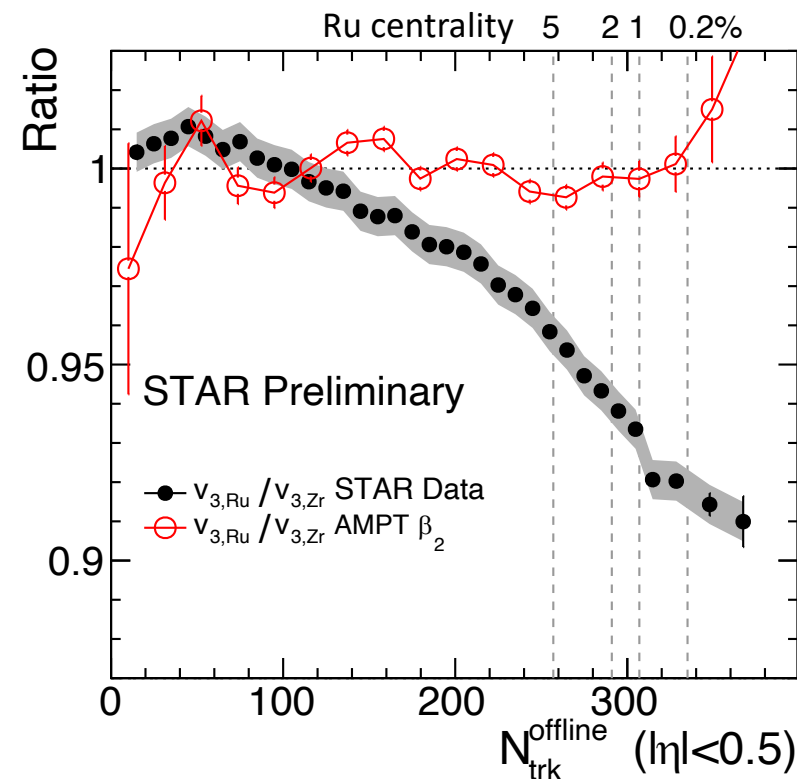
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Cancelation expected in non-central collisions

v_2 and v_3 ratio

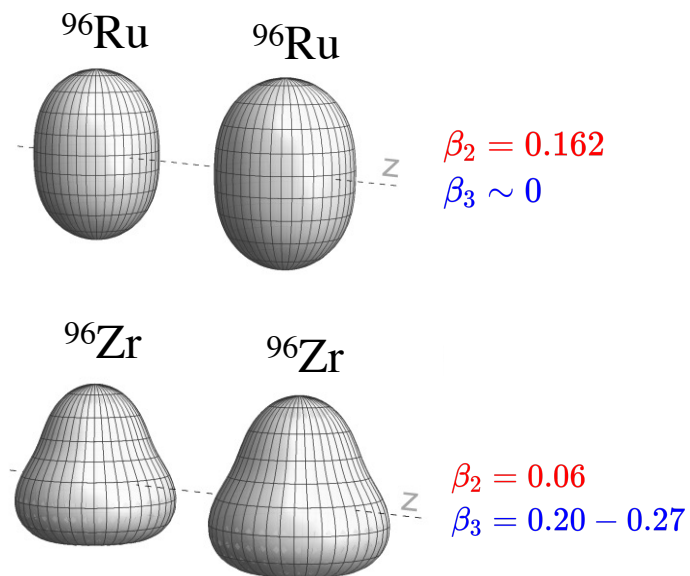


v_2 ratio: large increase from $\beta_{2,\text{Ru}}$ in central



v_3 ratio: not affected by $\beta_{2,\text{Ru}}$

C. Zhang et al., arXiv:2109.01631; G. Giacalone et al., 2105.01638



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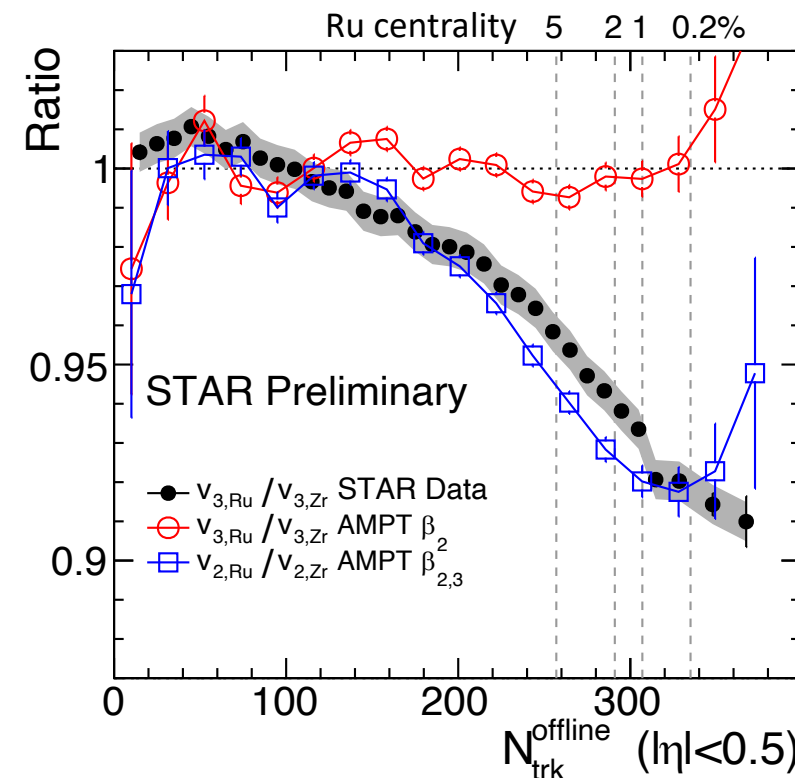
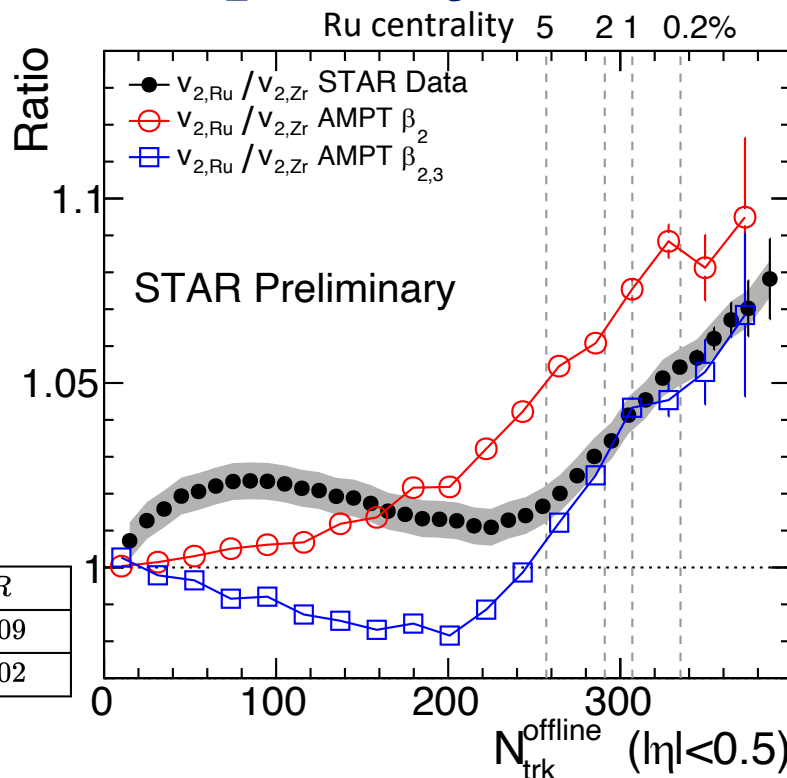
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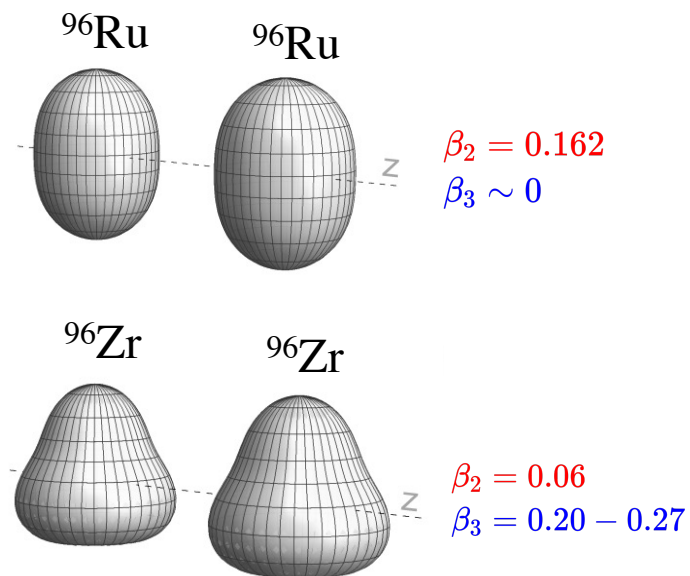


1) v_2 ratio: large $\beta_{2,\text{Ru}}$, negative contribution from $\beta_{3,\text{Zr}} \Rightarrow$ Sharper increase in central

2) v_3 ratio: strong decrease from $\beta_{3,\text{Zr}}$ with negligible $\beta_{2,\text{Ru}}$ distortion

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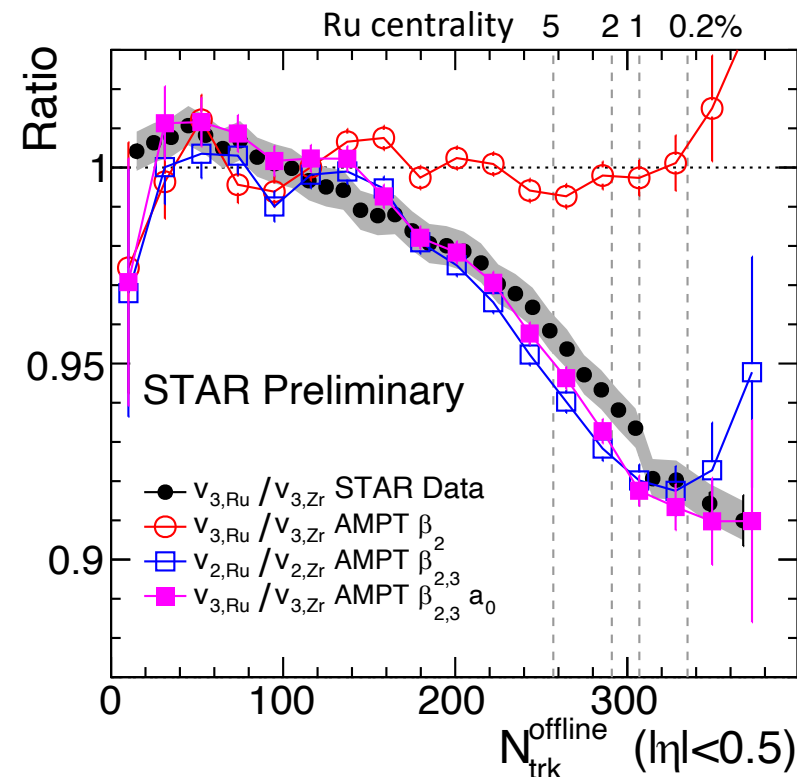
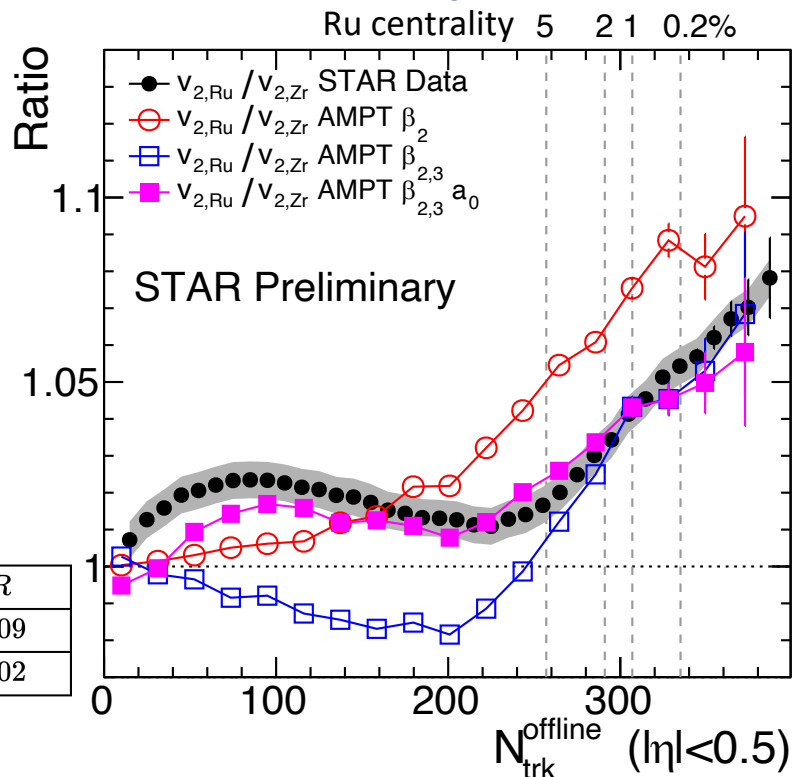
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- 3) Residual effect due to radial structure, e.g., neutron skin in Zr

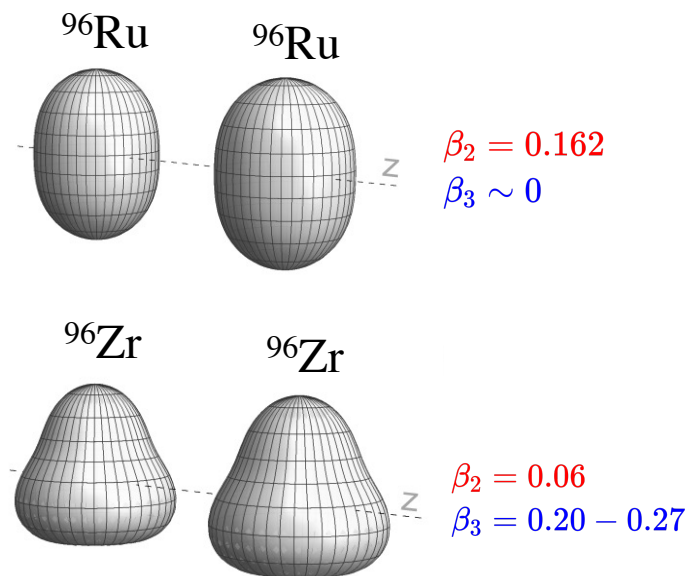
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C. Zhang et al., arXiv:2109.01631; G. Giacalone et al., 2105.01638

H. Xu et al., arXiv:1808.06711, 2103.05595, 1910.06170

Q. Shou et al., arXiv:1409.8375

Direct indication of octupole deformation in heavy-ion collisions.



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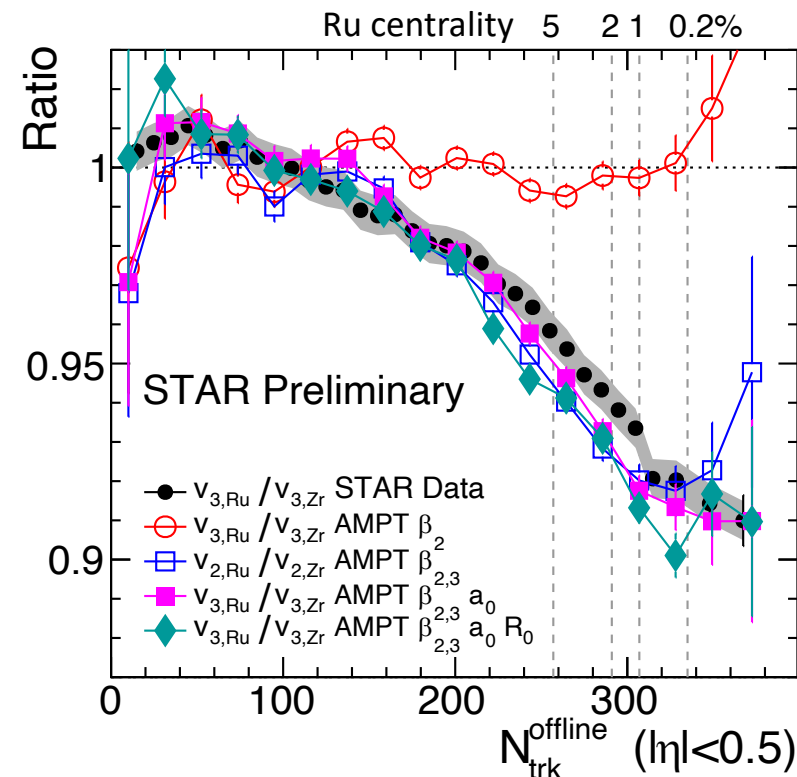
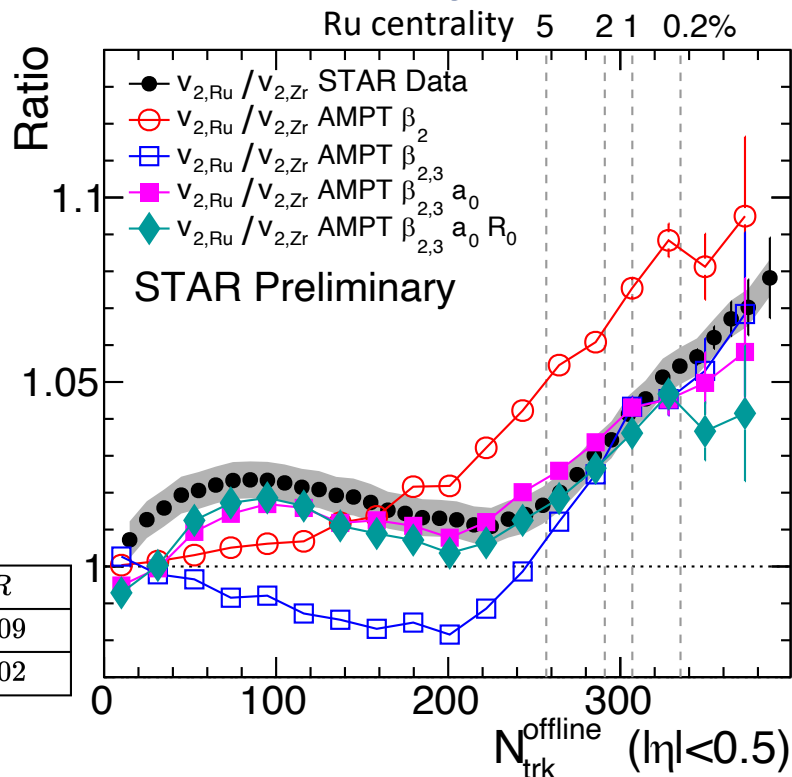
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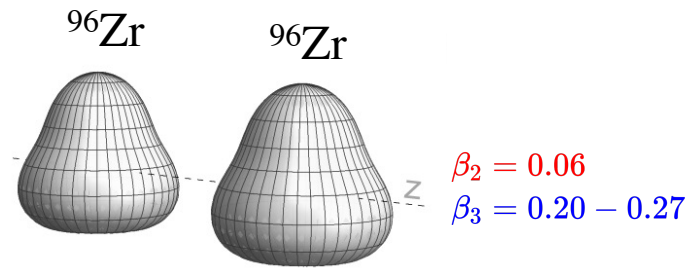
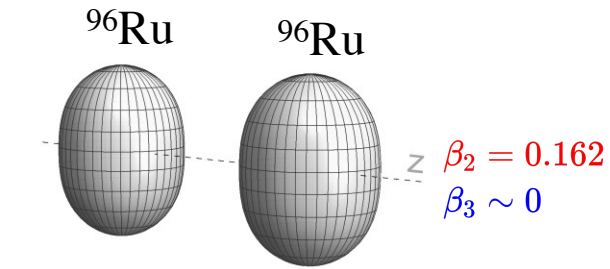
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[p_T]-variance ratio

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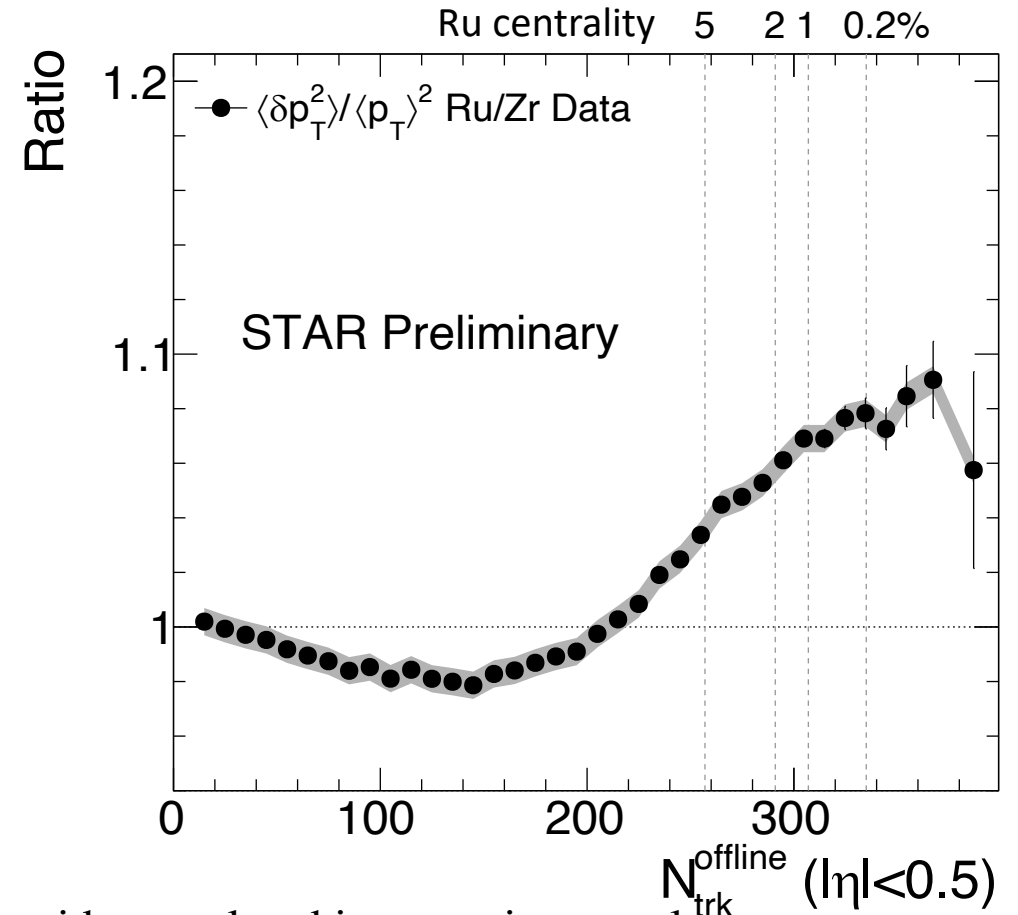
Heavy-ion expectation:

$$\langle (\delta[p_T]/[p_T])^2 \rangle = a_0 + b_0\beta_2^2 + b_{0,3}\beta_3^2$$

$$\frac{\langle \delta p_T^2 \rangle_{\text{Ru}}}{\langle \delta p_T^2 \rangle_{\text{Zr}}} \approx 1 + \frac{b_0}{a_0} (\beta_{2,\text{Ru}}^2 - \beta_{2,\text{Zr}}^2) - \frac{b_{0,3}}{a_0} \beta_{3,\text{Zr}}^2$$

Cancellation expected in non-central collisions

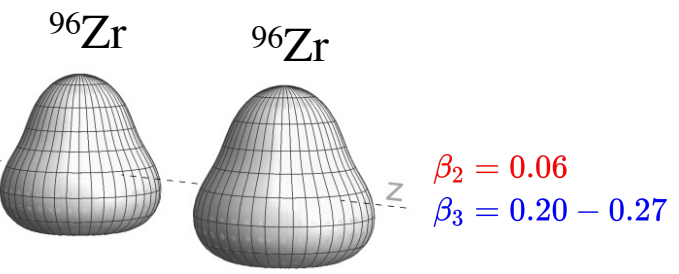
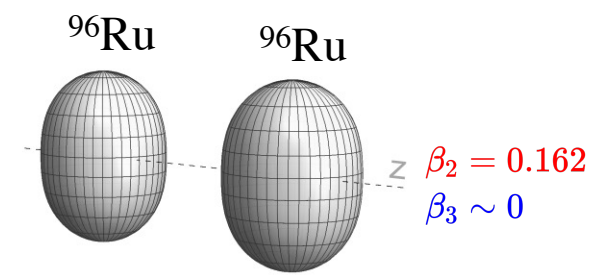
$$\langle (\delta[p_T]/[p_T])^2 \rangle \propto \langle (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^2 \rangle = \langle \delta_d^2 \rangle + \langle p_0(\Omega_1, \Omega_2, \gamma)^2 \rangle \beta_2^2$$



1) Nonmonotonic trend: large suppression in mid-central and increase in central

[p_T]-variance ratio

J. Jia, aXiv:2106.08768



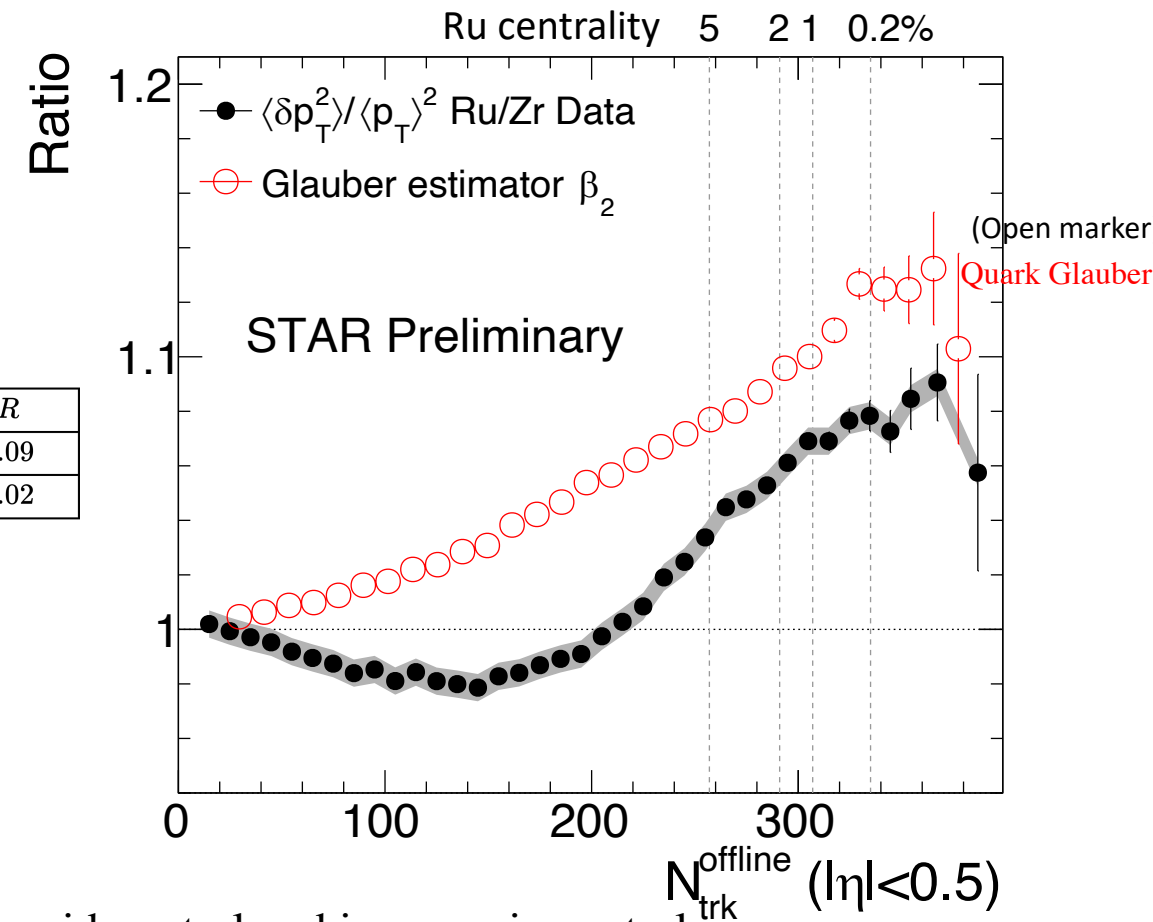
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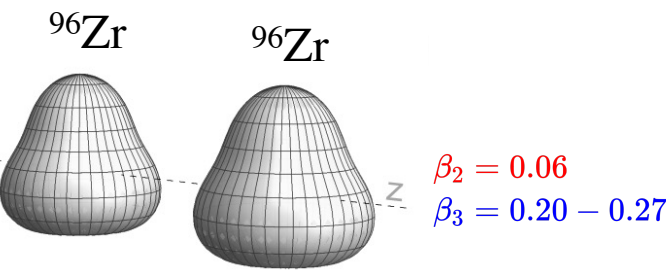
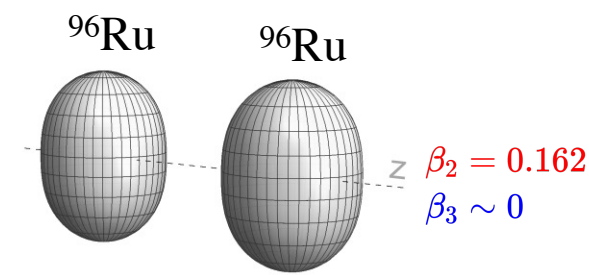


1) Nonmonotonic trend: large suppression in mid-central and increase in central

2) Enhancement from mid-central \Rightarrow large $\beta_{2,\text{Ru}}$

[p_T]-variance ratio

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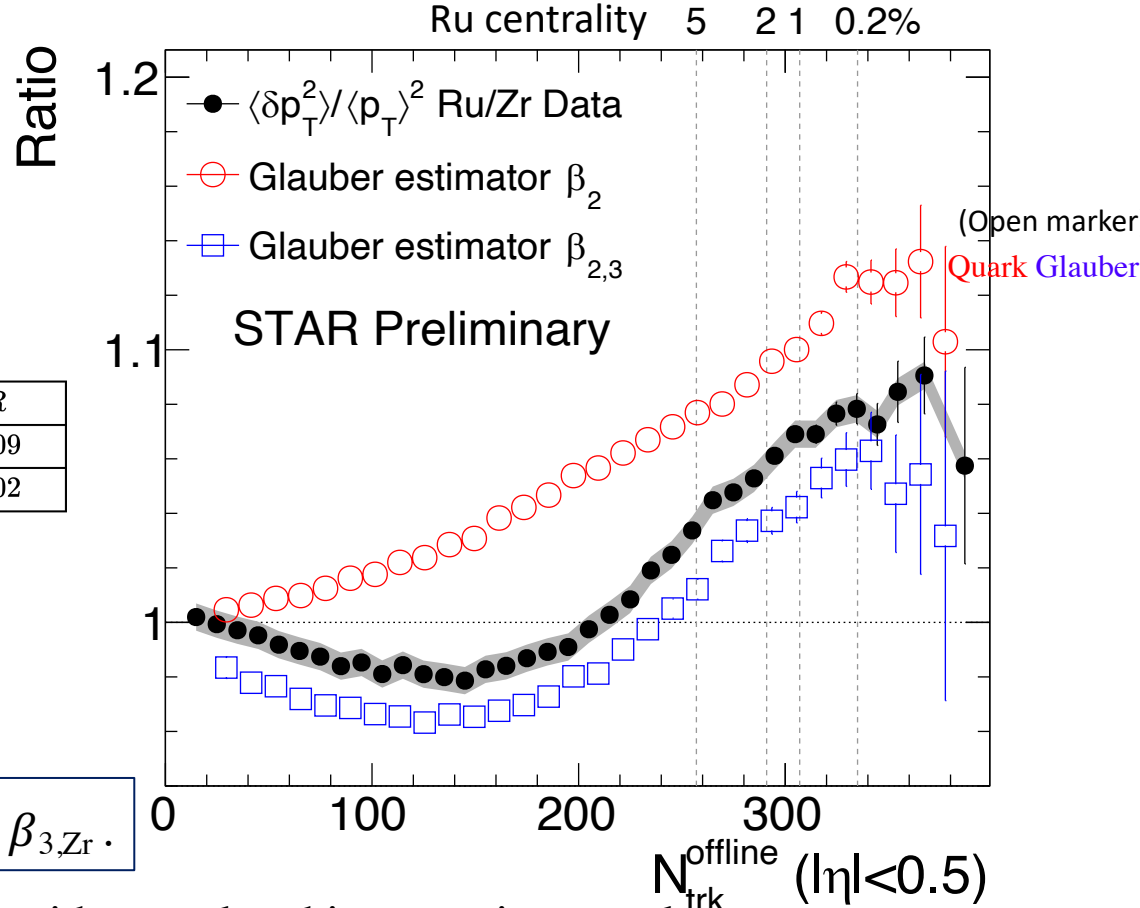
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$$\checkmark \beta_{2,\text{Ru}} \gg \beta_{2,\text{Zr}} \text{ and } \beta_{3,\text{Ru}} \ll \beta_{3,\text{Zr}}.$$



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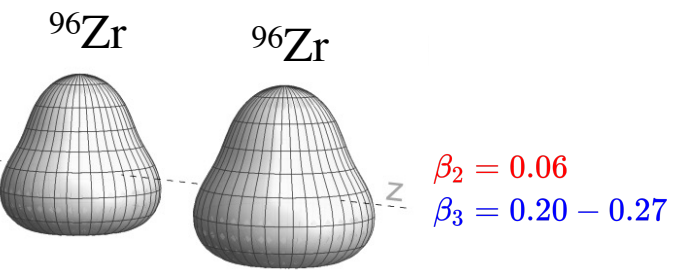
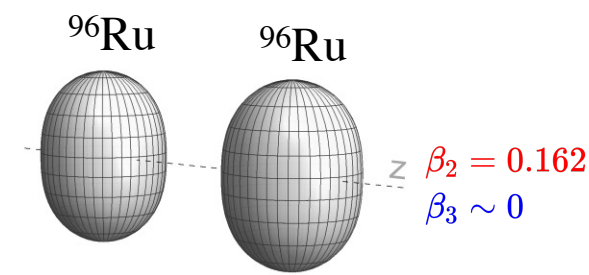
2) Enhancement from mid-central \Rightarrow large $\beta_{2,\text{Ru}}$

3) Large suppression in mid-central \Rightarrow strong octupole $\beta_{3,\text{Zr}}$

Variance of [p_T] fluctuations can also be used to constrain the nuclear deformation.

[p_T]-variance ratio

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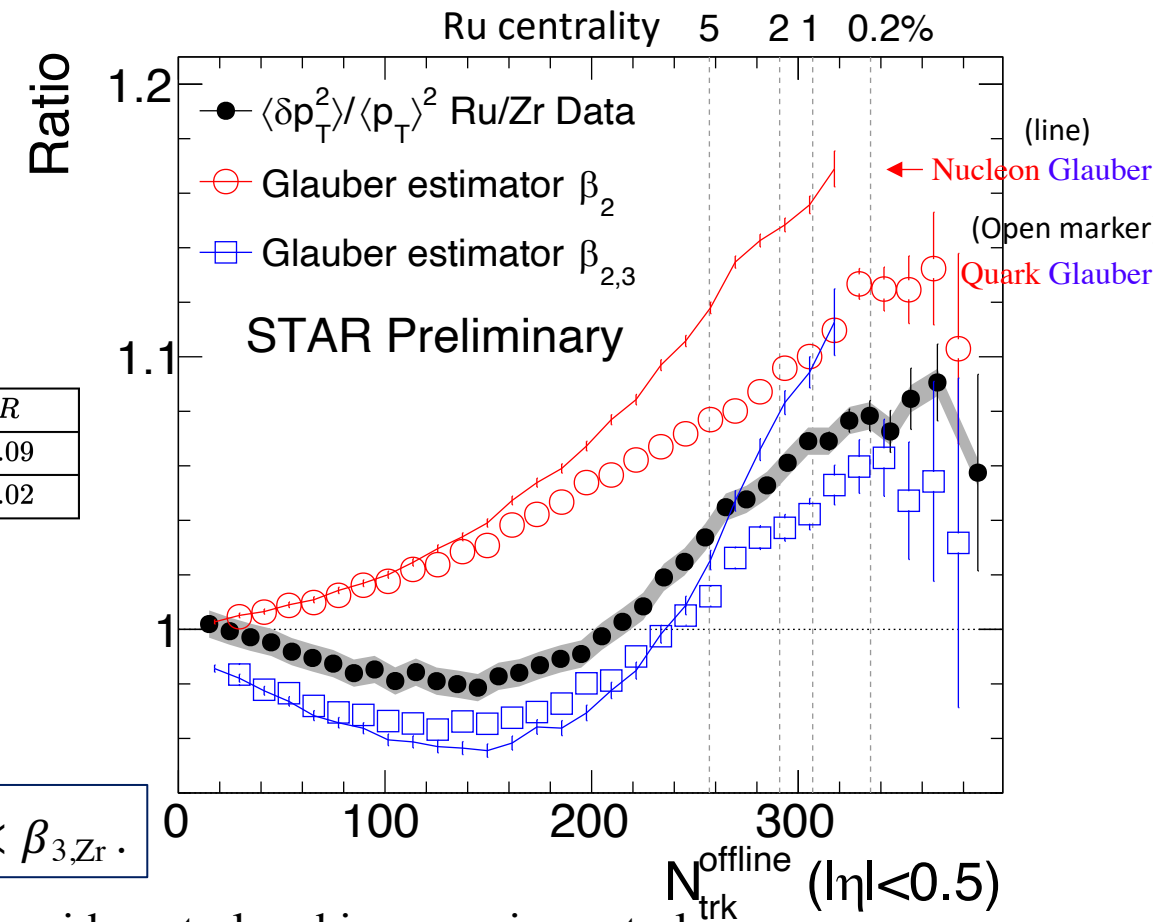
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Species	β_2	β_3	a_0	R
Ru+Ru	0.162	0.00	0.46	5.09
Zr+Zr	0.06	0.20	0.52	5.02

$$\langle (\delta[p_T]/[p_T])^2 \rangle \propto \langle (\delta d_\perp/d_\perp)^2 \rangle = \langle \delta_d^2 \rangle + \langle p_0(\Omega_1, \Omega_2, \gamma)^2 \rangle \beta_2^2$$

$$\checkmark \quad \beta_{2,Ru} \gg \beta_{2,Zr} \text{ and } \beta_{3,Ru} \ll \beta_{3,Zr}.$$



1) Nonmonotonic trend: large suppression in mid-central and increase in central

2) Enhancement from mid-central \Rightarrow large $\beta_{2,Ru}$

3) Large suppression in mid-central \Rightarrow strong octupole $\beta_{3,Zr}$

Variance of [p_T] fluctuations can also be used to constrain the nuclear deformation.

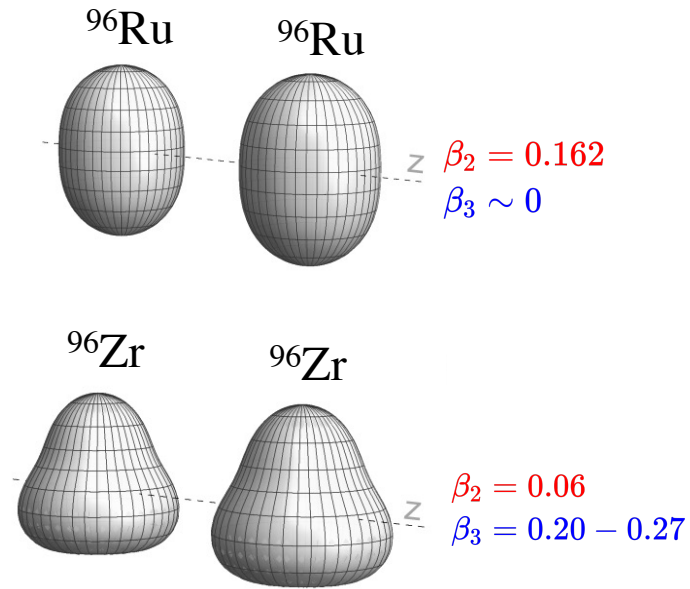
Multiplicity ratio

J. Jia, aXiv:2106.08768

! Note the **normalization is very sensitive to the trigger efficiency**

STAR, arXiv:2109.00131

Ru centrality 5 2 1 0.2%

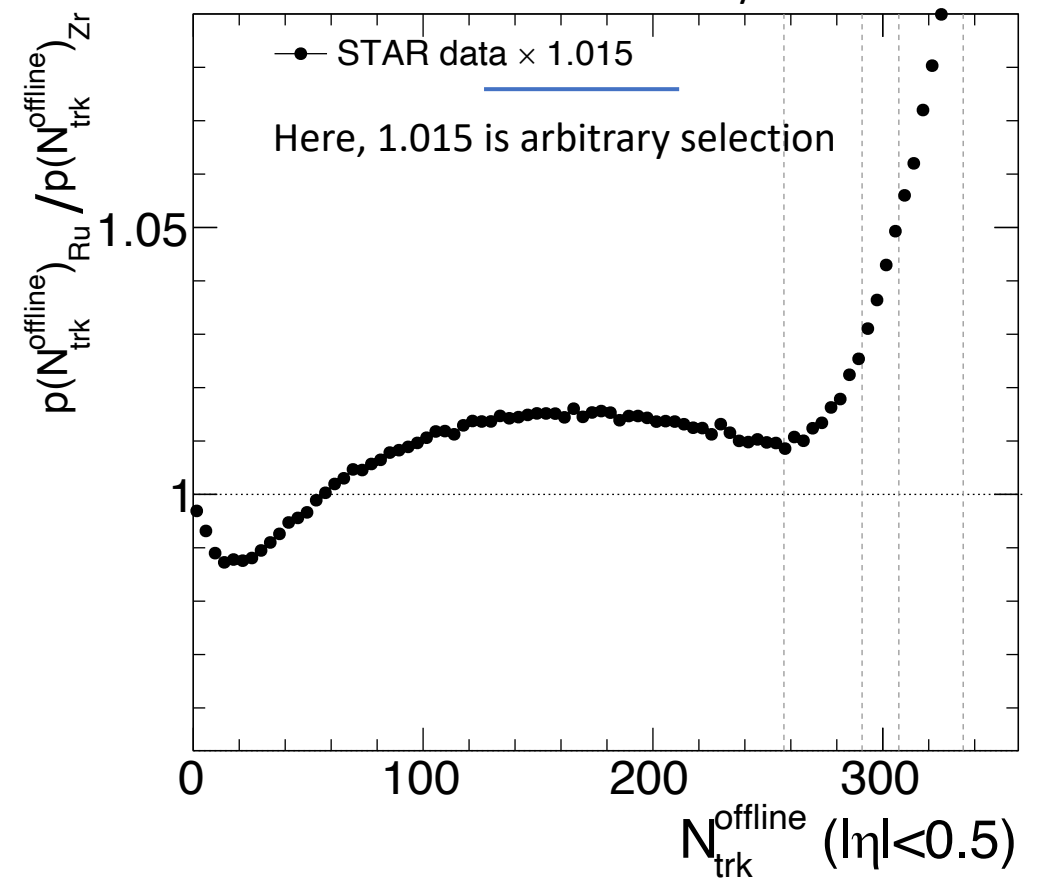
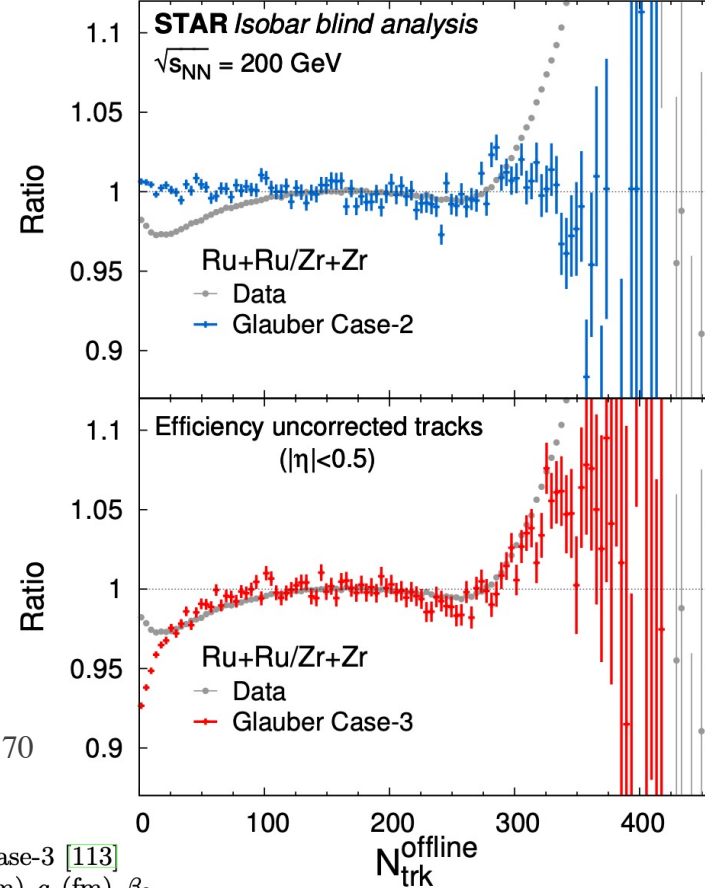


STAR, arXiv:2109.00131

H. Xu et al., arXiv:1808.06711, 2103.05595, 1910.06170

Q. Shou et al., arXiv:1409.8375

Nucleus	Case-1 [83]			Case-2 [83]			Case-3 [113]		
	R (fm)	a (fm)	β_2	R (fm)	a (fm)	β_2	R (fm)	a (fm)	β_2
$^{96}_{44}\text{Ru}$	5.085	0.46	0.158	5.085	0.46	0.053	5.067	0.500	0
$^{96}_{40}\text{Zr}$	5.02	0.46	0.08	5.02	0.46	0.217	4.965	0.556	0



1) Nonmonotonic trend: bump in mid-central and increase in central

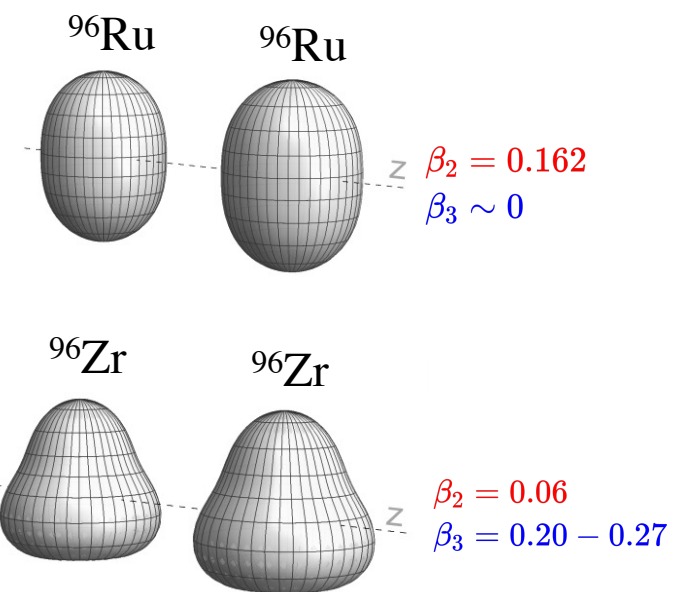
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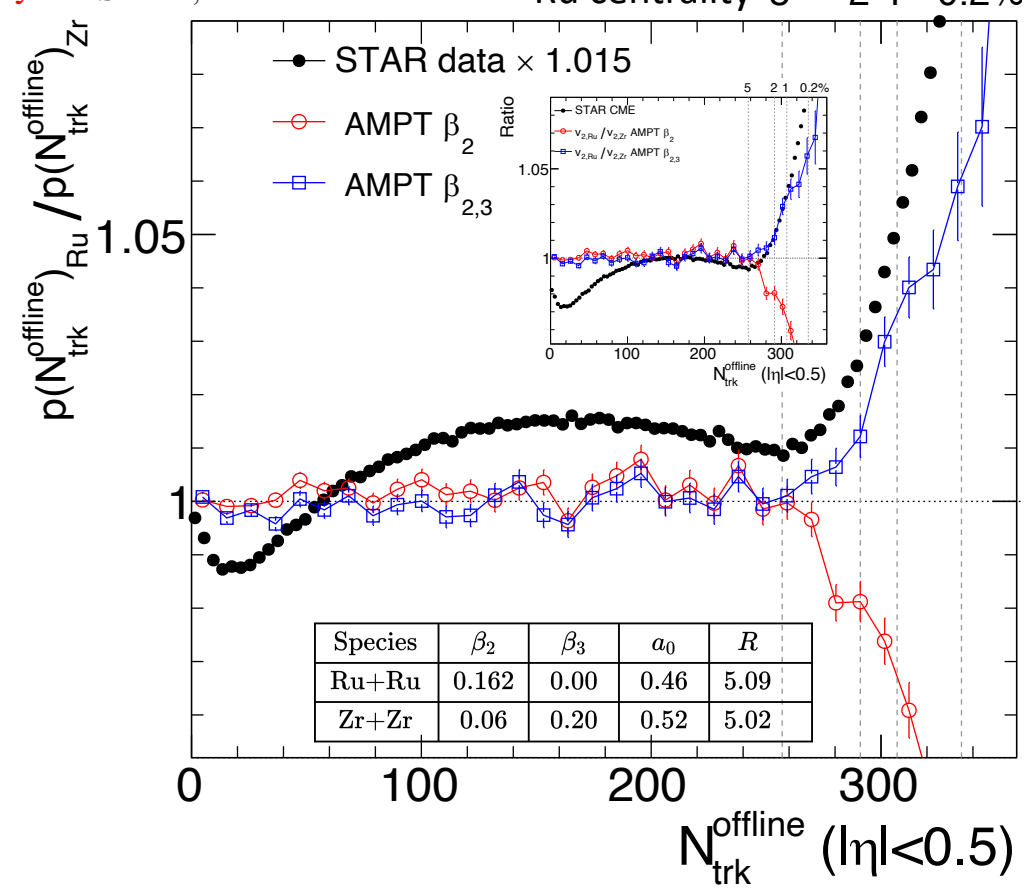
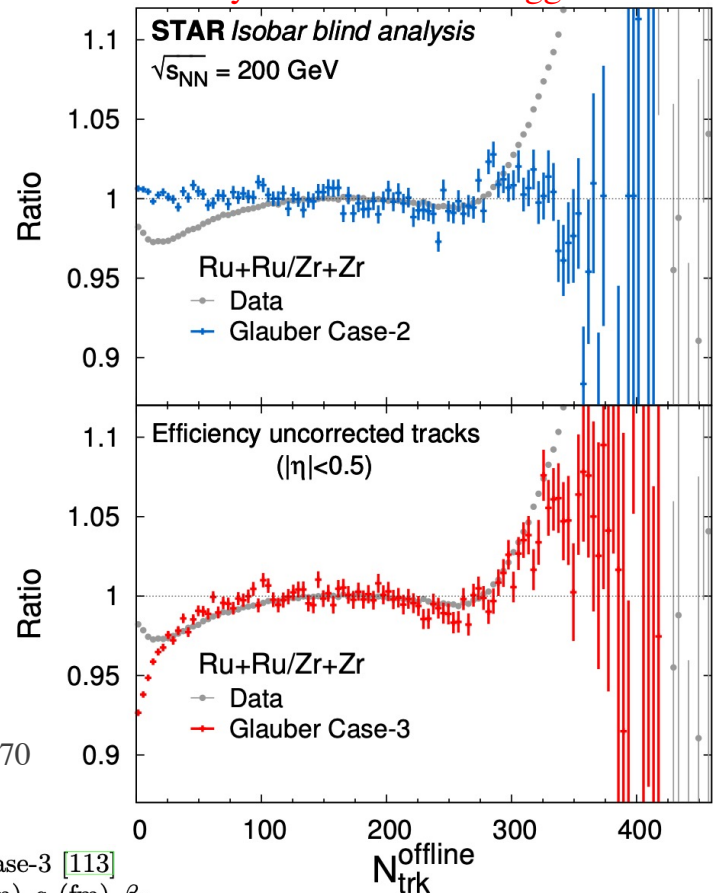


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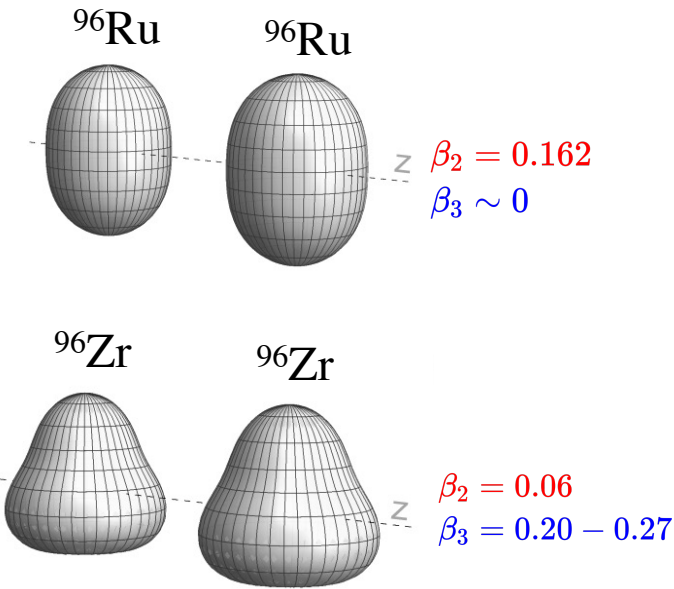
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STAR, arXiv:2109.00131

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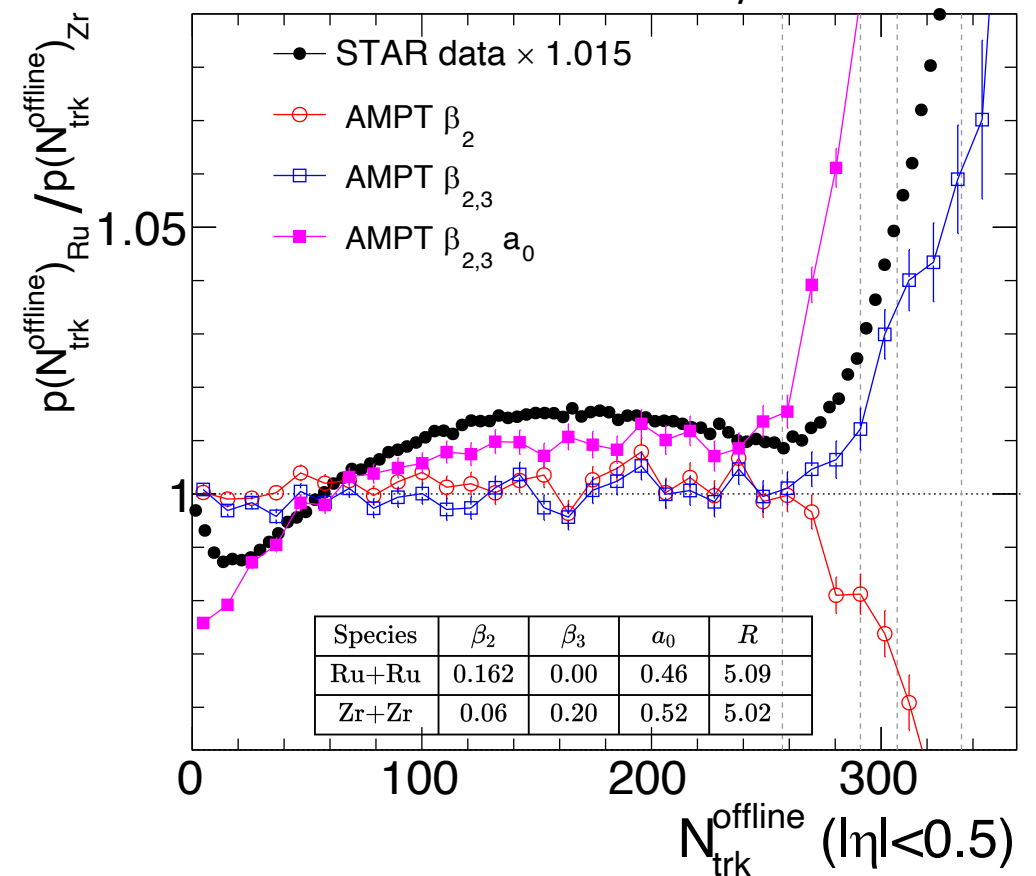
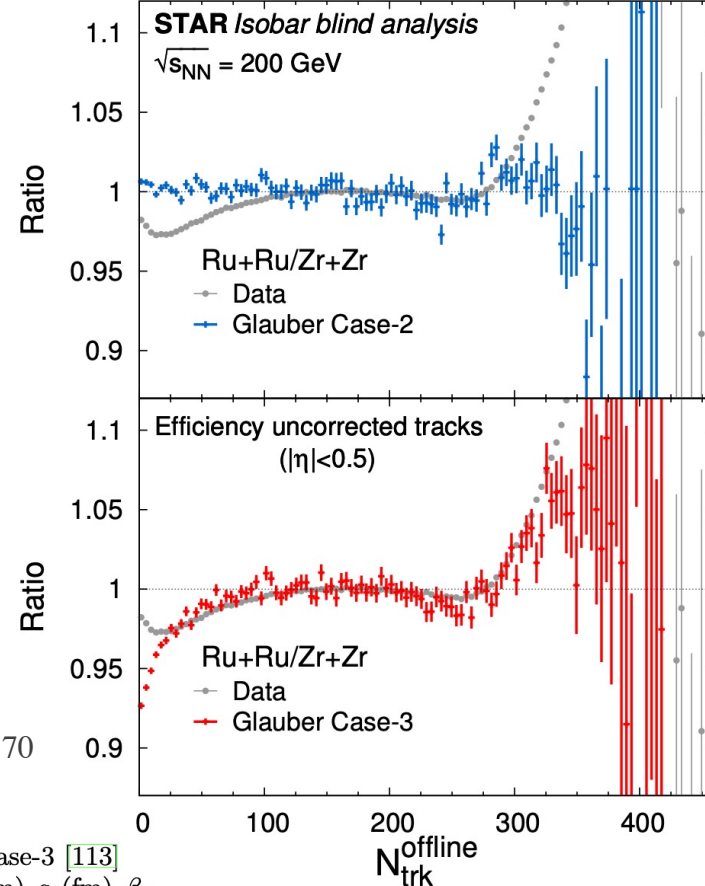


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4) Neutron skin a_0 dominates the bump in peripheral and mid-central. But the central tail is more tricky (be careful!).

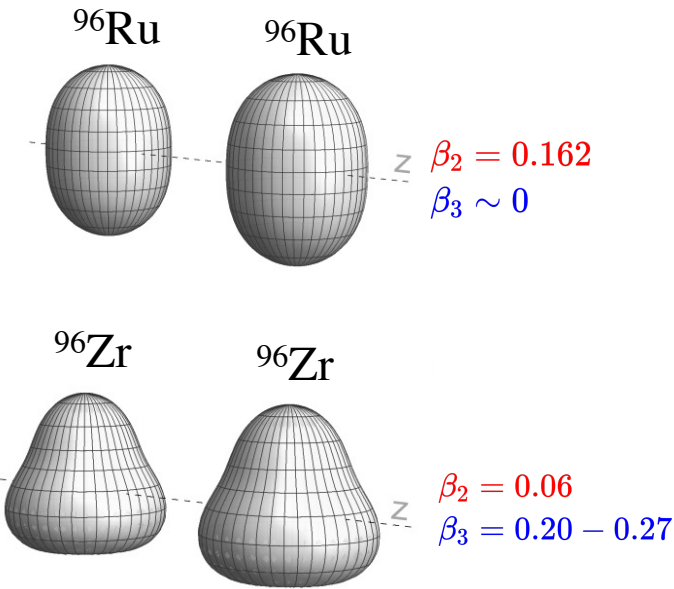
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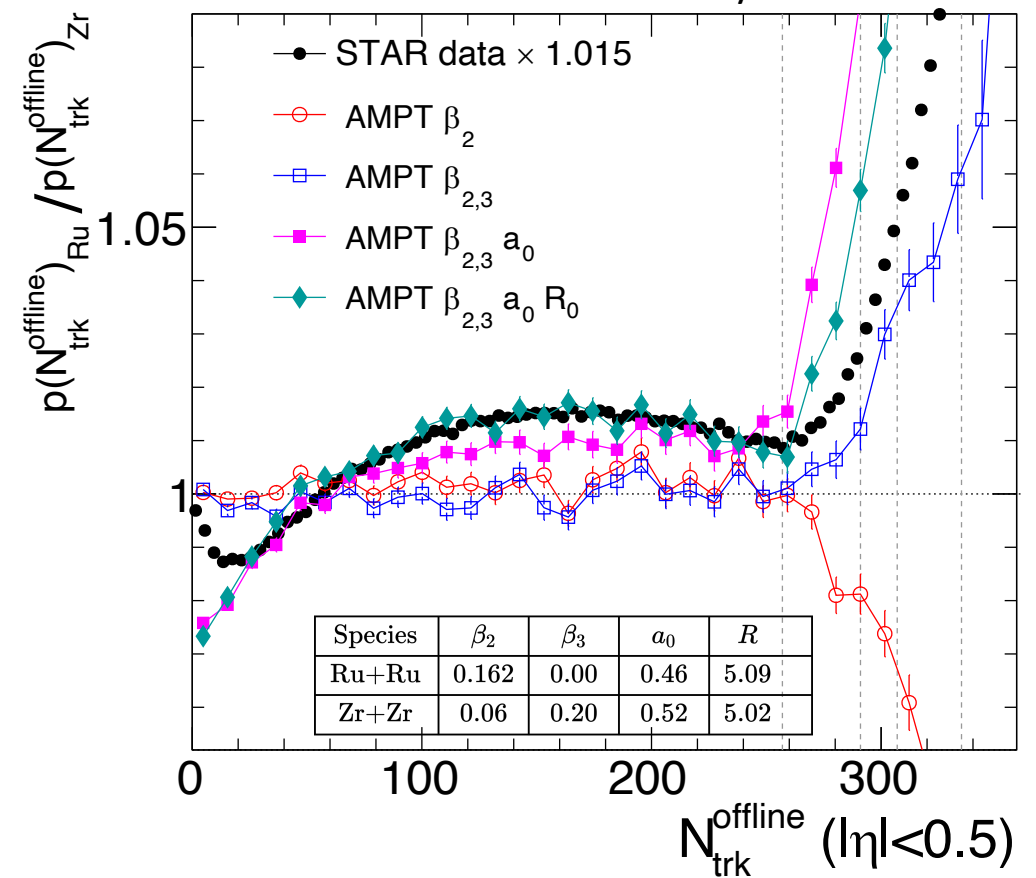
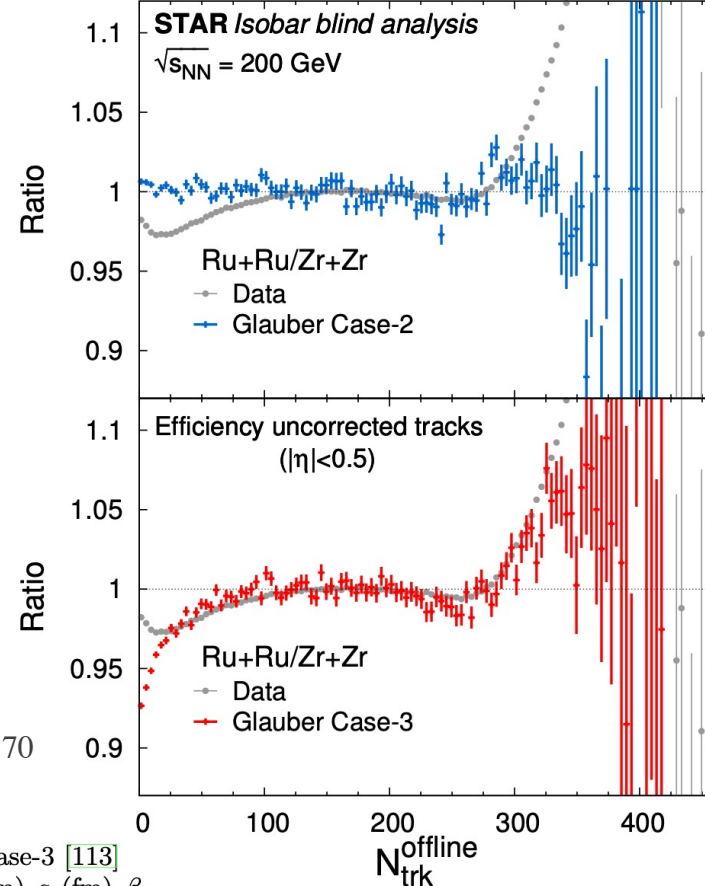


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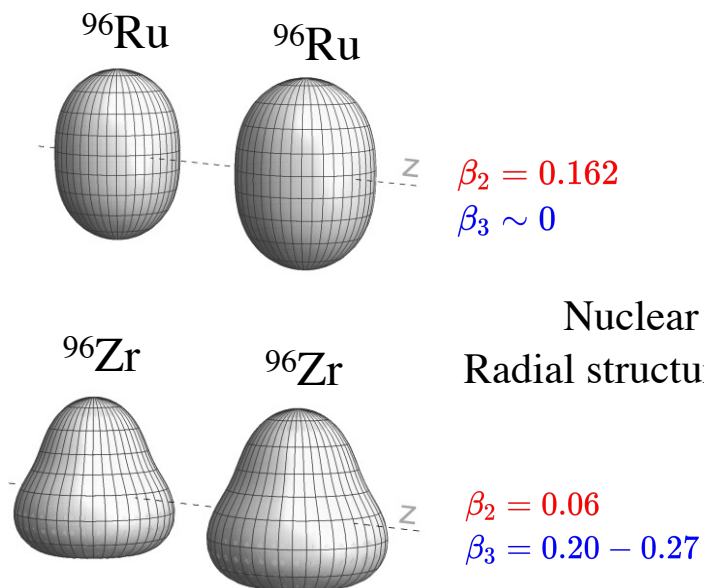
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5) Nuclear size R also can affect the trend.

flow, $[p_T]$ -variance and multiplicity ratio



Nuclear deformation +
Radial structure, e.g., neutron skin

J. Jia, aXiv:2106.08768

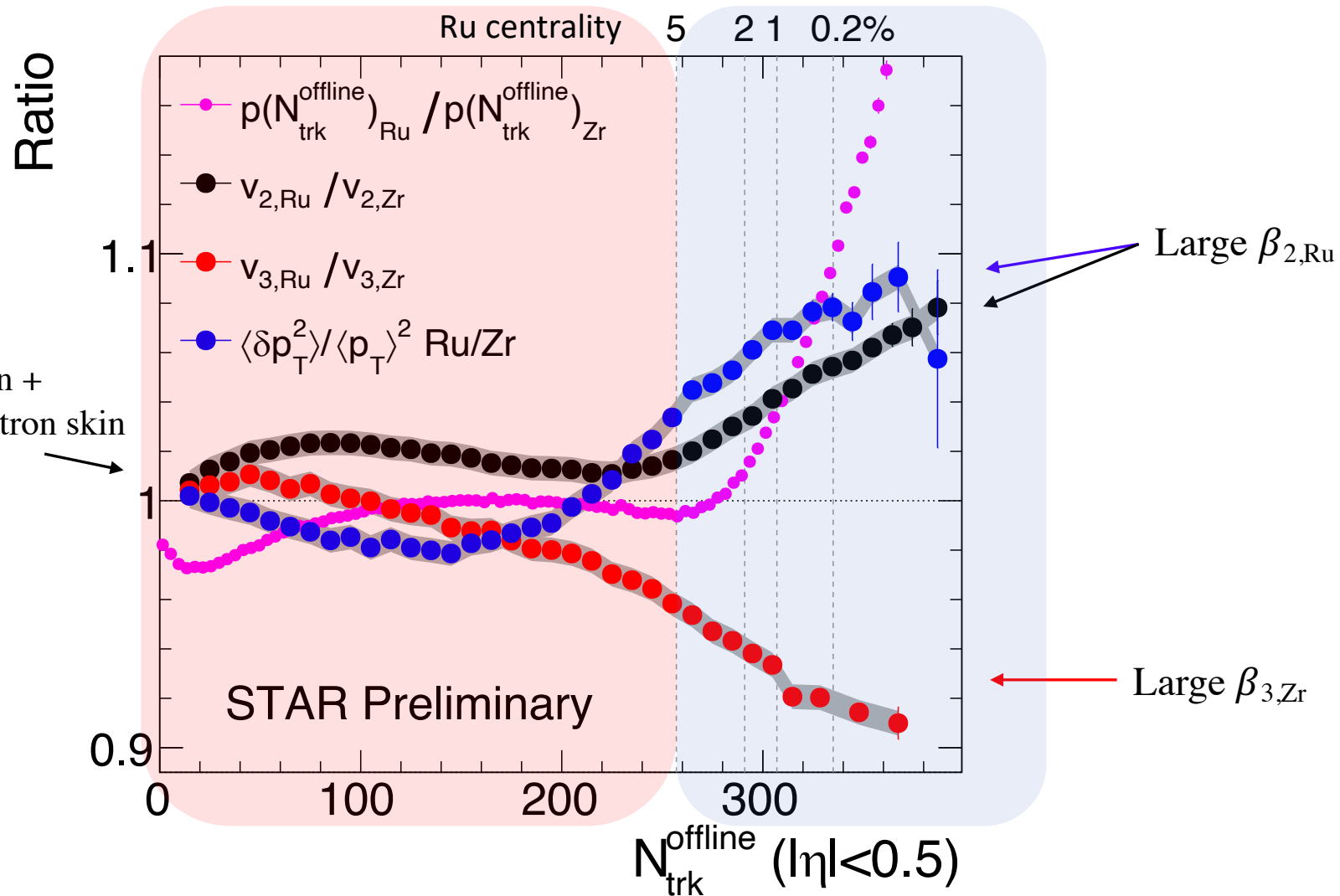
STAR, arXiv:2109.00131

H. Xu et al., arXiv:1808.06711, 2103.05595, 1910.06170

Q. Shou et al., arXiv:1409.8375

C. Zhang et al., arXiv:2109.01631

G. Giacalone et al., 2105.01638



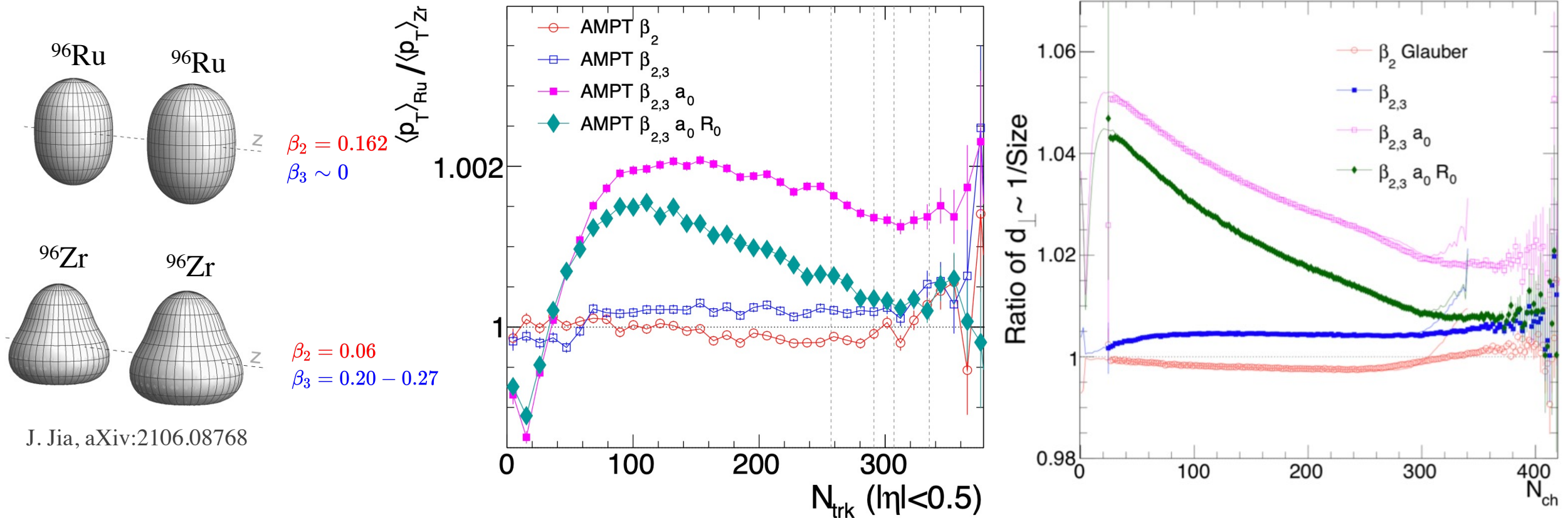
Ratio of any bulk observables can image the shape of the nuclei.

New proposed observable: Nuclear structure via $\langle p_T \rangle$

Jiangyong Jia and Chunjian Zhang, In preparation

AMPT predictions

Glauber predictions



J. Jia, aXiv:2106.08768

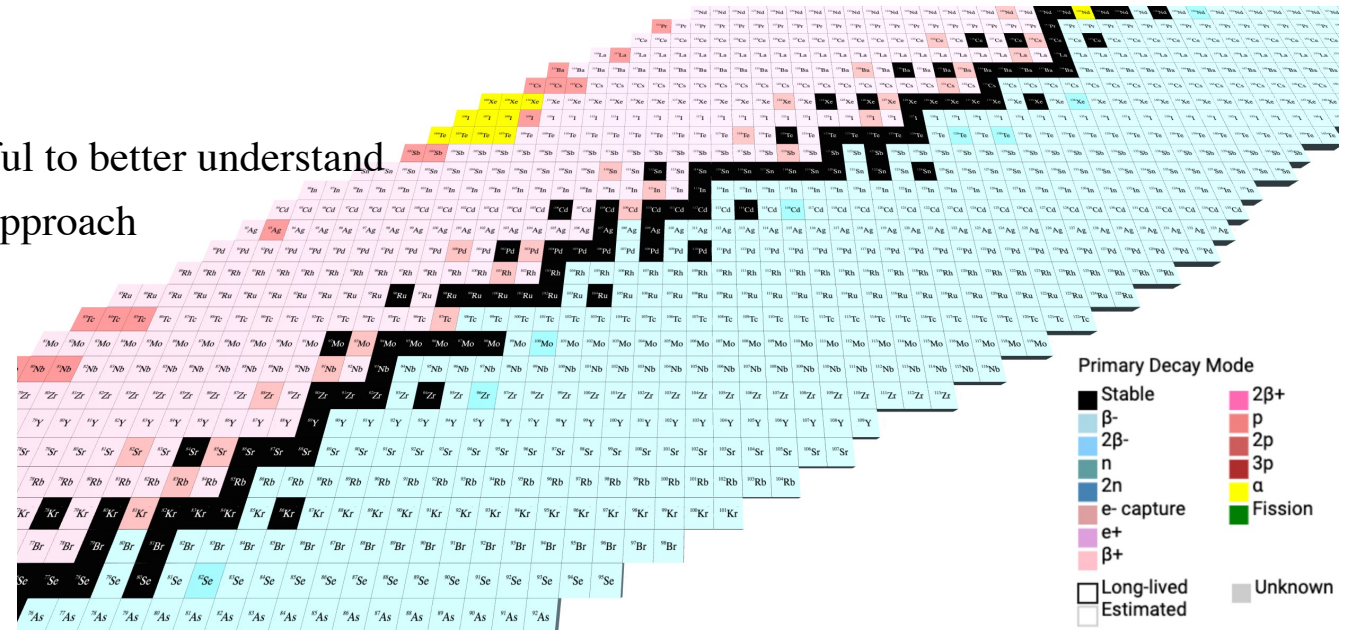
- 1) AMPT underestimate response by x3, so trust trends only.
- 2) β_2, β_3 small impact in noncentral, but some increase in UCC
- 3) Enhancement dominated by surface diffuseness
- 4) Radius difference leads to stronger N_{ch} dependence
- 5) Glauber model also describe the trends.

Ratio of $\langle p_T \rangle_{\text{Ru/Zr}}$ also could reflect the nuclear structure.

Conclusions and outlooks

- ✓ Isobar collisions are a new tool to study the nuclear structure.
- ✓ The ratios of v_2 , v_3 , $\langle \delta p_T^2 \rangle$ and multiplicity have large deviation from one implying:
 $\beta_{2,\text{Ru}} \gg \beta_{2,\text{Zr}}, \beta_{3,\text{Ru}} \ll \beta_{3,\text{Zr}}$, and radial structure, e.g., neutron skin in ^{96}Zr
- ✓ This is the direct observation of ^{96}Zr octupole deformation/collectivity using heavy-ion collisions.
- ✓ Isobar collisions open up new opportunity to study nuclear structure at a very short time scale ($\sim 10^{-24}\text{s}$) through heavy-ion collisions

- By doing future deformed-system scan
- Species with well known deformation will be useful to better understand the systematics and establish the efficacy of this approach



Many thanks to ATHIC conference and also thank you for listening.